REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The present application is submitted to place the above-identified application in condition for allowance based on the indication of allowable subject matter in the outstanding Office Action. More specifically, in the outstanding Office Action, claims 3, 7, 9-12, 15, 19, 21-24, and 27-34 are allowed. Further, claims 1-2, 4-6, 8, 13-14, 16-18, 20, and 25-26 were rejected.

By the present Amendment each of rejected claims 1-2, 4-6, 8, 13-14, 16-18, 20, and 25-26 is canceled without prejudice. Thereby, by the present amendment only claims indicated as allowable in the outstanding Office Action are currently pending.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Gregory J. Maier

Registration No. 25,599

Surinder Sachar

Registration No. 34,423

Attorneys of Record

Customer Number 22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220 (OSMMN 06/04)

I:\ATTY\SNS\0557\05574877\05574877US-AM 12-28-05.DOC